



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2014

Members Present:

John Haneski, Anne Ganakas, Toni Griffin, Robert Wilson, Larry Leatherwood and Erik Hansen

Members Absent:

Richard Watkins, Justin Himebaugh and Bob Thelen

Staff Members Present:

Ed Reed

1. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Chair John Haneski at 4:00 p.m.

2. Set/Adjust Agenda:

Toni Griffin made a motion the Agenda be accepted as submitted. Robert Wilson supported. Agenda was accepted as written.

After the agenda was accepted as submitted Larry Leatherwood requested that item 6(b) Banners/Signs be moved up on the agenda to number 4. Without objections from Committee Members John Haneski agreed to this change as follows:

3. Approve Minutes – December 4, 2013:

Erik Hansen motioned that the minutes be accepted as submitted. Anne Ganakas supported. Motion carried.

4. Staff Update on Banners/Signs:

Ed Reed provided an update, which included the following items:

- Four quotes for the banners have been received and are within the price range approved by the EDC
- Information with regard to poly vinyl versus canvas banners
- Anticipated timeline for the banners
- Sketches of concept signs for retrofitting existing sign on Waverly Road, and a brand new monuments sign on the corner of Saginaw Highway and Canal Road were provided and discussed
- Discussion on Applebee's remodel

- Funding of the Monument sign on the corner of Saginaw Highway and Canal by the EDC versus the Township Board with scrolling message board and the benefits

A discussion on a possible events being planned for when the banners are put up, which all Committee Members agreed would be beneficial also occurred.

John Haneski asked members to keep a dialog going with Ed Reed with any suggestions and/or concerns they may have.

5. Election of Officers:

John Haneski asked that nomination be opened. Erik Hansen made a motion that one slate to be considered to keep the positions as currently filled, John Haneski as Chair, Robert Wilson as Co-Chair and Richard Watkins as Secretary/Treasurer. Anne Ganakas supported. No other nominations were made. Toni Griffin made a motion to close the nominations Anne Ganakas seconded. Eric Hansen made a call for the votes for the slate of John Haneski as Chair, Robert Wilson as Co-Chair and Richard Watkins as Secretary/Treasurer. He then asked for all Committee Members to vote. Motion carried.

6. Review of February 10, 2013 Presentation to Delta Township Board of Trustees:

John Haneski provided an overview of the presentation he and Eric Hansen made to the Township Board on February 10th, which included Economic Gardening and Import Substitutions. He then indicated that the Township Trustees have shown an interest in the redevelopment of Saginaw Corridor, and are pleased that the EDC supported the banners and new signage.

Eric Hansen indicated that a discussion followed their report on the Township beginning to present a concept completely different than what is currently seen, with more consistent guidelines for the corridor.

7. 2013 Overview and Information:

Ed Reed provided information with regard to a Market study, including a market gap analysis, which had been done in the Township, and the future possible development of the Flower Land property west of the intersection on Saginaw Highway. He also updated the Committee on other redevelopments along the Saginaw Corridor.

Ed Reed also reported on the following items:

1. The Township has applied for the Redevelopment Ready Communities Grant, and he was advised that the Township would not be accepted into the full program, but may be able to participate in the training portion of the program.
2. Delta Township has applied the LEAP Art Grant, and that he and Jen Roberts, Deputy Township Manager, are meeting with the evaluators this Thursday afternoon. This grant will allow for a piece of art, done by a local artist, on the corner of Saginaw Highway and Canal Road.
3. He performed thirty-three retention visits during 2013.
4. He completed fifty-three drop-in visits.
5. He entered 556 businesses into the sales force database to date, which represents approximately 25% of the businesses in there for the Tri-County region.
6. He attended four conferences last year.

7. He completed twenty site searches last year, with requests coming through MEDC/LEAP and an additional three coming directly to Delta Township.
8. Attended a dozen events, including ground breakings, ribbon cuttings, and grand openings.
9. He worked diligently on the Safe Routes to Schools, assisting with the acquisition of sidewalk easements.
10. He attended Delta Side Business Association meetings throughout the year.
11. There were forty-nine new homes in Delta Township last year.
12. Goals for 2014 are to continue meeting with businesses, possibly working on easements for sidewalks, and work on easing of zoning ordinance with regard to parking requirements, continue to develop our new website, marketing of the Eaton County Prosecutor's Economic Crimes Unit Program and continue to promote the I Am Delta program.
13. Regal Theatres is scheduled to open late June/early July with Norplas opening around the same time.

8. Member Comments:

John Hanieski stated that the EDC is the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. He stated that he feels that the Township is being well served in the Economic Development department by Ed Reed. A discussion followed with regard to this subject.

Anne Ganakus and Robert Wilson thanked Ed Reed for a job well done.

9. Other Business:

None presented.

10. Set Next Meeting Date (June 4, 2014):

11. Adjournment:

Toni Griffin motioned for adjournment. Eric Hansen supported. All agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.